

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 18561 131956Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 CEQ-01 EPA-04 /053 W
-----030538 140006Z /70

R 131859Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3715
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 18561

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, ECSM
SUBJ: EC CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION POLICY:
FIRST REPORT

REF: ECA-316

1. AS REQUIRED BY THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION ADOPTED BY THE EC COUNCIL IN APRIL 1975, THE EC COMMISSION HAS PUBLISHED ITS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT COVERING COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE CONSUMER FIELD THROUGH DECEMBER 1976. THE REPORT GIVES AN OVERALL VIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S ACTION PROGRAM, PAYING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO POLLUTION CONTROL, ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS IN THE CONSUMER FIELD. SEPARATE MEMBER STATE REPORTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.

2. THE COMMISSION'S MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT TO DATE HAS BEEN THE CREATION AND SETTING IN MOTION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK WHICH ENABLES THE ACTION PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED. THE COMMISSION'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 18561 131956Z

CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICE (ECPS) AND THE CONSUMER CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC) FORM THE BASIC STRUCTURE.

3. THE COMMISSION REPORT CATALOGS ALL COMMUNITY DIRECTIVES WHICH HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE CONSUMER. THE MAJORITY OF DIRECTIVES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AIM AT HARMONIZING EC MEMBER STATE LAWS INVOLVING CONSUMER HEALTH AND

SAFETY. THESE INCLUDE DIRECTIVES ON FOOD COLORANTS, PRESERVATIVES, EMULSIFIERS, CHOCOLATE, HONEY, OILS AND FATS, PESTICIDES, MATERIALS WHICH COME IN CONTACT WITH FOOD, A NUMBER OF VETERINARY DIRECTIVES COVERING MEAT AND FEEDSTUFFS, MARKETING, PACKAGING, AND LABELLING OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES, SAFETY MEASURES FOR AUTOMOBILES AND MOTORCYCLES, COSMETICS AND TEXTILE LABELLING.

4. AWAITING EC COUNCIL APPROVAL ARE DRAFT DIRECTIVES EVEN MORE SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON THE CONSUMER DEALING WITH PRODUCT LIABILITY, DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES, UNIT PRICING, AND CONSUMER CREDIT. COMMISSION WORK ON MISLEADING ADVERTISING AND LABELLING IS IN PROGRESS. SURVEYS AND STUDIES ON CONSUMER ATTITUDES, TESTING METHODS AND PRODUCT SAFETY HAVE BEEN COMPLETED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ECPS.

5. THE COMMISSION REPORT'S EXAMINATION OF ACTION BY MEMBER STATES REVEALS A HUGE GAP IN NATIONAL ATTITUDES AND PRIORITIES. FRANCE, THE UK, THE FRG, DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION. FRANCE AND THE UK HAVE CENTRALIZED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS. DENMARK HAS CREATED A CONSUMERS OMBUDSMAN. LEGISLATION TO EASE CHANNELS FOR COMPLAINTS AND REDRESS HAS BEEN PASSED IN THE FRG, DENMARK, THE UK AND THE NETHERLANDS. FRANCE HAS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 18561 131956Z

PARTICULARLY FOCUSED ON LABELLING. ITALY LAGS FAR BEHIND THE REST OF THE MEMBER STATES IN TAKING ANY ACTION AT ALL IN THE INTEREST OF THE CONSUMER.

6. ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL THE COMMUNITY HAS WORKED IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE OECD. IT HAS ALSO MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH THE ISO.

7. COMMENT: THE COMMUNITIES' PROGRESS IN THE CONSUMER FIELD UP THROUGH 1976 WAS MODEST INDEED. THE DIRECTIVES CITED IN THE REPORT, WHILE HAVING SOME IMPACT ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, WERE GENERALLY DESIGNED TO FULFILL ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS RATHER THAN MEET CONSUMER NEEDS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL EARLY 1976 THAT THE ECPS AND THE CCC WERE SUFFICIENTLY WELL-ORGANIZED INTERNALLY TO TAKE HOLD OF THINGS AND BEGIN WORK ON SUBJECTS COMMONLY ACKNOWLEDGED AS "CONSUMER ISSUES." THE EC COUNCIL HAS NOT YET APPROVED ANY OF THE MAJOR CONSUMER DIRECTIVES, BUT THE GENERAL DIRECTION AND MOST OF THE GROUNDWORK FOR COMPLETION OF THE ACTION PROGRAM IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED. IN ANY CASE, THE COMMUNITY IS NOW COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THE EUROPEAN CONSUMER IS INFORMED, PROTECTED, EDUCATED AND

HEARD.

8. COPIES OF COMMISSION'S REPORT ARE BEING POUCHED TO
E/CAC, EUR/RPE, CPSC, COMMERCE AND THE WHITE HOUSE
FOR MS. PETERSON. HINTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSUMER PROTECTION, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE18561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770464-0546
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771263/aaaacbko.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9bac305-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 263088
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION POLICY: FIRST REPORT
TAGS: ECSM, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9bac305-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009